

Exhibition dates: 1-31 October 2005; sent to various schools on tour exhibition

Estimated no. visitors who viewed exhibit: 20,500

Introduction:

Beijing Teaching Botanic Garden ("BTBG") is directly under the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education. It is a specialized botanical garden that provides scientific and education services to primary and secondary school students regarding botanical, ecological and environmental science. It also educates the public about biodiversity conservation. BTBG held a general scientific education activity from 1 to 7 October 2005. The exhibition of "Plant - Protector of Plant Diversity in China" is an important component for this one-week activity.

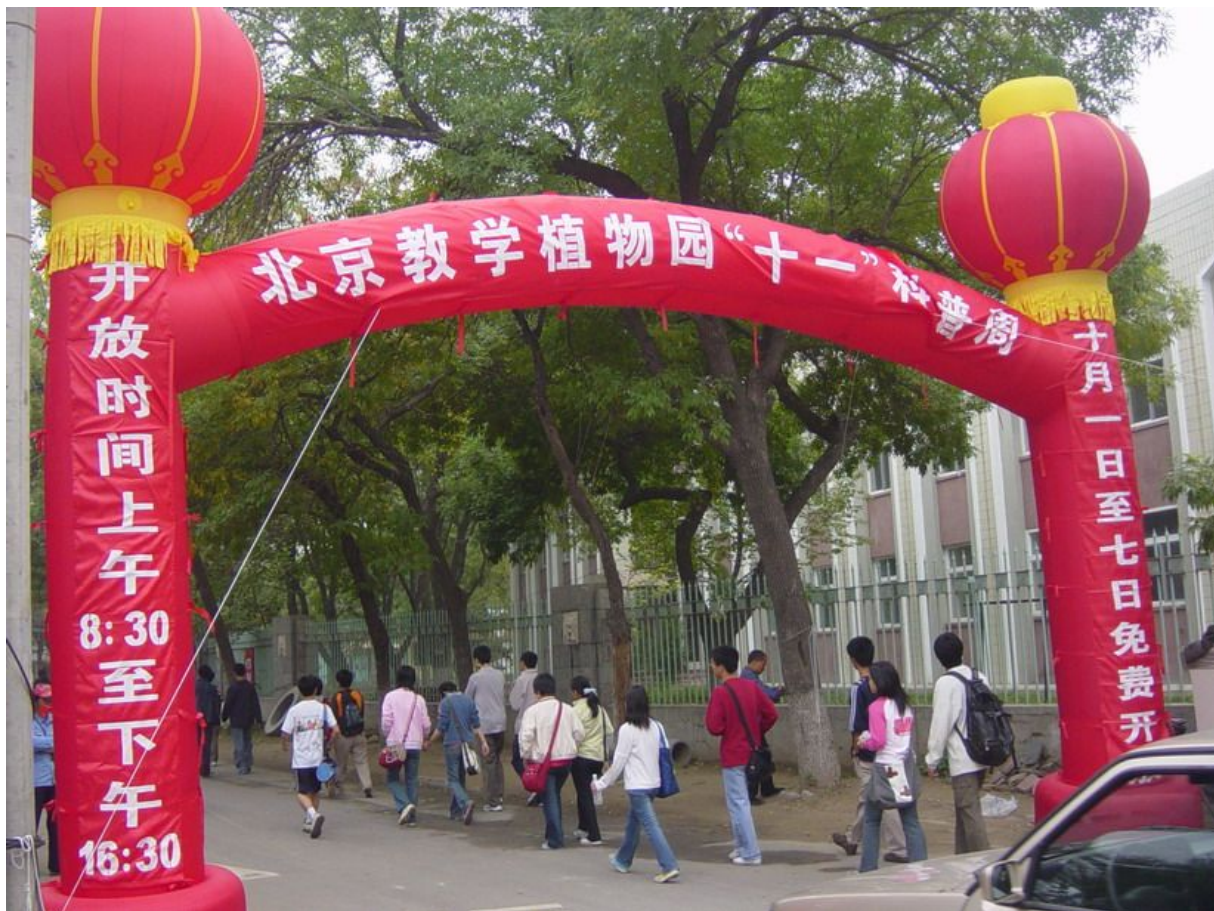


Fig 1. Sidewalk publicity

Location of the exhibition:

One set of exhibition panels was displayed at the Exhibition Room at the Teaching Building at the BTBG; while the other set of exhibition panels was on a tour exhibition in various schools.

Activities conducted with exhibition:

This open activity included many participatory and exploratory activities for students visiting the exhibition. The following activities are closely related to the exhibition of "Plant - Protector of Plant Diversity in China".



Fig 2. Enjoying the exhibition



Fig 3. Volunteers

■ **Activity 1: Observe the surface of plant leaves in a microscopic scale**

Using a digital microscope and a computer, participants observed the surface structure of plant leaves under a microscope or computer monitor, so that they could understand the surface structure of plant leaves and had a better understanding on how plants could reduce noise and dust.

■ **Activity 2: Plant treasure hunt**

Simple questions related to plants were prepared. Participants had to find out the answers within BTBG and would learn more about plants from the process. Those who could answer the questions correctly would receive a prize.

■ **Activity 3: A small experiment on the noise absorption capabilities of plants**

Participants had to use a decibel meter to measure the noise absorption capabilities of plants in different vegetation systems. They had to record the figures on a provided work sheet. Participants could directly observe the noise absorption capabilities of plants.

■ **Activity 4: A small experiment on the influence of plants on environmental humidity**

Players had to use a humidity meter to compare the humidity of a forest and on barren land. They had to record the figures on a provided work sheet.

■ **Activity 5: Growing a plant**

Under the guidance of teachers, participants grew plants that can indicate the level of air pollution and can beautify their living environment.

■ **Activity 6: Inquiry of plant knowledge**

An inquiry counter on plant knowledge was setup to answer plant-related questions raised by visitors

■ Activity 7: Plant puzzle

Photos of plants that could monitor environmental pollution were cut into puzzle pieces. Participants would play the puzzle. Teachers would explain (1) the function of these plants in monitoring environmental pollution, (2) work of BGCI and (3) work of HSBC.

■ Activity 8: Showing slides on scientific education

Slides on scientific education were shown in a conference room.

■ Activity 9: Water quality monitoring

Participants used a water quality meter to monitor the capabilities of plants in purifying dirty water. They could then observe the change in the reading of water quality index.



Fig 4. Trial of water quality test

Live plant and other exhibits:

Using exhibition cupboards, several specimens of plants related to this exhibition will be exhibited, such as the seed and specimens of *Haloxylon ammodendron* and *Populus euphratica*.